



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,174	07/11/2003	Jong-Jin Lee	1293.1799	2990
21171	7590	06/15/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			GOMA, TAWFIK A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				2627

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/617,174	LEE, JONG-JIN
	Examiner Tawfik Goma	Art Unit 2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment filed on 4/6/2006.

Information Disclosure Statement

The attachment to the information disclosure statement filed 7/12/2005 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because a copy of a foreign office action is not considered appropriate content of an IDS under 37 CFR 1.98. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609.05(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al (US Patent 6822936) in view of Masuda et al (US Patent 6501712).

Regarding claim 1, Ono discloses a method of discriminating a type of disc (fig. 2), comprising: detecting a time (Ta, Tb, fig. 3) corresponding to a distance from a

surface of the disc to a data recording layer of the disc using light reflected during a focusing operation (2030, fig. 2 and col. 7 lines 24-33); and discriminating the type of disc by comparing the detected time and a reference value (col. 7 lines 33-37). Ono fails to disclose where the method comprises stopping an operation of a motor rotating a disc. In the same field of endeavor Masuda et al (US Patent 6501712) discloses a disc discrimination method wherein the method includes the step of performing the detection while the disc rotation is stopped (S1, fig. 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disc discrimination method taught by Ono by stopping the rotation of the disc while detecting the signal as taught by Masuda. The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to stop the rotation of the disc while detecting the signal in order to eliminate the effects of laser light damage to the disc (See Masuda col. 6 lines 28-35). Detecting the signal while the disc rotation is stopped is also obvious in order to eliminate the effects of rotation noise on the detection signal.

Regarding claim 2, Ono further discloses wherein the detection of the time corresponding to the distance comprising detecting the time using a focusing error signal detected during the focusing operation (fig. 3A, 3b).

Regarding claim 3 and 5, Ono further discloses wherein the discrimination of the type of disc comprises discriminating between a CD disc type and a DVD disc type (2030, fig. 2 and col. 7 lines 43-48).

Regarding claims 4 and 6, Ono further discloses wherein the discrimination of the type of disc comprises determining the disc as a CD disc type when the detected time is greater than the reference value and as a DVD disc type when the detected time is less than the reference value (2030, fig. 2 and col. 7 lines 43-48).

Regarding claims 7 and 13, Ono discloses an apparatus for discriminating a type of disc (fig. 1), comprising: a motor rotating a disc (1140, fig. 1); a pickup detecting light reflected from the disc (1020, fig. 1); and a system controller performing a control process of enabling a focusing operation on the disc (1090, fig. 1) and discriminating the type of disc according to a result of detecting a time corresponding to a distance from a surface of the disc to a data recording layer of the disc using a light reflected during the focusing operation on the disc (Ta, Tb, fig. 3 and col. 7 lines 33-37). Ono further discloses a driving circuit to control a focusing operation (1100, fig. 7) and an amplifier for converting the signals into electrical signals (1030, 1050, fig. 1). Ono fails to disclose wherein the system controller stopping an operation of the motor in a disc type discrimination mode. In the same field of endeavor Masuda et al (US Patent 6501712) discloses a disc discrimination apparatus wherein the disc rotation is stopped prior to detecting the signal (S1, fig. 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disc discrimination apparatus taught by Ono by stopping the rotation of the disc while detecting the signal as taught by Masuda. The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to stop the rotation of the disc while detecting the signal in order to eliminate the effects laser damage to the disc (see Masuda col. 6 lines 28-35). Detecting the signal while the disc

rotation is stopped is also obvious in order to eliminate the effects of rotation noise on the detection signal. Further in regard to claim 13, Ono does not specifically disclose an RF amplifier that amplifies the signal but it is obvious that the signal is amplified in order to generate the focus error signal as taught by Masuda (25-27, fig. 1). It is obvious to amplify the detection signal in order to properly calculate the focus error signal.

Regarding claim 8, Ono further discloses an amplifying unit producing a focusing error signal based on a light signal output from the pickup (1050, fig. 1), wherein the system controller utilizes the focusing error signal to detect the time (1090, fig. 1 and fig. 3). Ono does not specifically disclose that the focus error generating unit amplifies the signal but it is obvious that the signal is amplified in order to generate the focus error signal as taught by Masuda (20-27, fig. 1). It is obvious to amplify the detection signal in order to properly calculate the focus error signal.

Regarding claim 9, 11 and 14, Ono further discloses wherein the system controller discriminates the type of disc between a CD disc type and a DVD disc type (2030, fig. 2 and col. 7 lines 43-48).

Regarding claim 10, 12 and 17, Ono further discloses wherein the system controller determines the disc as a CD disc type when the detected time is greater than a reference value and as a DVD disc type when the detected time is less than the reference value (col. 7 lines 43-48).

Regarding claim 15, Masuda further discloses a servo controller (14, fig. 6), wherein when the disc drive is in a disc discrimination mode (fig. 5), the system

controller (39, fig. 6) stops the operation of the motor via the servo controller and controls the pickup to perform the focusing operation on the disc (S1, fig. 5 and col. 4 lines 6-9).

Regarding claim 16, Masuda further discloses a driving circuit (14, fig. 1) stopping the operation of the motor, wherein the servo controller drives the pickup and the driving circuit when an instruction to stop the operation of the motor and the focusing operation of the pickup is received from the system controller (S1, fig. 5 and col. 4 lines 6-19).

Regarding claim 18, Ono in view of Masuda does not specifically disclose wherein the reference value is determined as a time value of 75 ms. However, Ono does disclose that the predetermine thickness value for a DVD is 1.2mm and for a CD is .6mm (col. 7 lines 9-13) and that the predetermined value should between the two thicknesses so that they can be discriminated (col. 7 lines 43-47 and 2030, fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to determine the predetermine value to be 75ms through experimentation. The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have a predetermined time of 75ms as a time between the two thickness values (0.6mm and 1.2mm) in order to properly discriminate the detected time differences (see Ono col. 7 lines 43-47).

Regarding claims 19-21, Ono discloses a method of discriminating a type of disc in a disc drive (fig. 2), which comprises a disc (1010, fig. 1), a servo controller (1100, fig. 1), a spindle motor (1140, fig. 1), a pickup (1020, fig. 1), and a system controller (1090, fig. 1), the method comprising performing the focusing operation on the disc

(2010, fig. 2); detecting a time corresponding to a distance from a surface of the disc to a data recording layer of the disc using an amount of light reflected on the disc and an FE signal (2020, fig. 2 and Ta, Tb, fig. 3); and comparing the time with a reference value (2030, fig. 2); wherein if the detected time is greater than the reference value the disc is determined to be a CD disc type (fig. 2), or if the detected time is less than the reference value the disc is determined to be a DVD disc type (fig. 2). Ono fails to disclose outputting a control signal to a servo controller to turn on the pickup while turning off the spindle motor. In the same field of endeavor, Masuda discloses a disc discrimination method that includes the step of turning on (S2, S3, fig. 5) the pickup (9, fig. 1) through the servo controller (36, fig. 1) while turning off (S1, fig. 5) the spindle motor (13, fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method taught by Ono with the step of turning on the pickup and turning off the motor as taught by Masuda. The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to stop the rotation or the disc while detecting the signal in order to eliminate the effects of laser light damage to the disc (See Masuda col. 6 lines 28-35). Detecting the signal while the disc rotation is stopped is also obvious in order to eliminate the effects of rotation noise on the detection signal.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/6/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments that Ono et al (US 6822936), herein Ono, fails to disclose *detecting a timing corresponding to a distance from a surface of a disc....and discriminating the type of disc by comparing the detected time with a reference value*, is

not persuasive because Ono clearly discloses detecting a timing (Ta, Tb, fig. 3a, 3b) that corresponds to a distance from the surface to a recording layer (col. 7 lines 24-33). Ono further discloses discriminating the disc by comparing the time with a reference value (col. 7 lines 34-37).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tawfik Goma whose telephone number is (571) 272-4206. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Tawfik Goma
6/13/2006


THANG V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER